

VISIT...

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MARVEL
X-MEN
JUN '87 110

EXCALIBUR

TO SAVE
THE
WORLD...



...A HERO
MUST
FALL!

DIRECT EDITION
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\$1.95 US \$2.75 CAN

SALVADOR
SCOTT

STAN LEE PRESENTS

THE FINAL BATTLE FOR THE FUTURE OF

Captain
BRITAINHEARTS BLEED
CRIMSONBEN
RAAB
WriterSALVADOR
LARROCA
PencilerDUBBED
EXCALIBUR...THIS INTERNATIONAL
GROUP OF MUTANTS
HAS COME HERE --
TO HONG KONG......TO RESCUE THEIR
FRIEND AND TEAMMATE --
BRIAN BRADDOCK --
AKA CAPTAIN BRITAIN......FROM A FATE
WORSE THAN
DEATH ITSELF.NOW, THEY PRAY
THEY AREN'T TOO
LATE.EN
GARDE, MEINE
FREUNDE!SCOTT KOBLISH
InkerRS & COMICRAFT
LetterersKEVIN TINSLEY
Colors

MATT IDELSON

BOB HARRAS
Editor in Chief

EXCALIBUR: Vol. 1, No. 110, June, 1987. ISSN #1085-3609. Published by MARVEL COMICS, David J. Scherf, President; Stan Lee, Publisher; Shermi Rhodes, Executive VP, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 365 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y., AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1987 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$2.75 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. \$23.88; Foreign \$29.88; and Canadian subscribers must add \$10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R123078262. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, entities, institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. EXCALIBUR (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive bannerwork thereon) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO EXCALIBUR, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING CORP./SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 1979 DANBURY, CT. 06819-1979. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-6201. Printed in the U.S.A.



IF THESE
"DRAGONS OF THE
CRIMSON DAWN" ARE
AS FORMIDABLE AS
OUR EASTWILE
ALLY, SPIRAL,
CLAIMS --

-- THEN OUR
ASSAULT MUST BE
AS SWIFT AND SURE
AS THE STEEL OF OUR
LEGENDARY
NAMESAKE!

WOLFSBANE --
TAKE THE POINT,
BITTE, TELL ME
WHAT YOU SEE...

AYE,
NIGHTCRAWLER.

FOCUSING HER ENHANCED
LYPINE SENSES TOWARDS
THE FORTRESS IN THE
DISTANCE...

THE YOUNG SCOTS
LYCANTHROPE -- RHINE
SINCLAIR -- DISCOVERS...

PATH'S CLEAR
ACROSS THE
COUNTRY-
SIDE.

NAE
SIGN O'THE
BEASTIES...
WAIT!

THERE'S
SOMETHING
STRANGE ABOUT
THAT KEEP ...

... AYE, 'TIS
GUARDED BY
SOMETHING... THERE'S
A LARGER GRID
SURROUNDING THE
PERIMETER!



THEN WHAT ARE
WE WAITING FOR?
LET'S BREAK
THROUGH
IT!

IF BRIAN'S
INSIDE, THEN
THAT'S WHERE I'M
GOING!



NYET,
MEGGAN.

LET
GO OF ME,
COLOSSUS!

NOT
IF YOU ARE
GOING TO
FLY OFF HALF-
COCKED.



PIOTR, WE MUST
SAVE MY BELOVED!
WE WERE TO BE
MARRIED!

HUSH
NOW, LITTLE
ONE. I PROMISE
YOU --

-- WE
WILL.

SENTIMENTAL
FOOLS.
BELIEVING LOVE
AND CAMARADERIE
CAN CONQUER
ALL.

HAD I NOT
TELEPORTED
THEM FROM THEIR
GENETIC RESEARCH
CENTER ON MUIR
ISLAND --

-- THEY
WOULDN'T
STAND A CHANCE
OF SAVING
BRADDOCK
IN TIME.

I COULD
HAVE PREVENTED
THIS -- YET I DID
NOT.

BUT...
WHY?

'ALLO,
SUNSHINE!

COMPARED TO
THE PASSION THAT
ONCE BURNED
WITHIN ME --

-- YOUR
VAUNTED "HOT
KNIVES" ARE LIKE
CANDLES UNTO A
RAGING
HOLOCAUST!

ONE TWIST
OF MY BLADE WILL
EASILY DOUSE
YOUR --

TIME TO
PORT US INSIDE
THAT BASE -- PAST
THE LASER GRID --
SAFELY --

... OR ELSE
SOMETHIN' BESIDES
ME ROBUISH CHARMS
IS GONNA GETCHA
SWEATIN' UNDER
THE COLLAR!

YOU
FLATTER
YOURSELF,
PETER.
WISDOM.

WHOOOMP

NEIN,
SPIRAL!

YOU
WILL GET
US INSIDE --
NOW!

KTANG



I WOULD...
IF I COULD.
MISFIT.

BUT TO
DO SO WOULD
ALERT THE DRAGONS
TO NOT ONLY YOUR
PRESENCE...

...BUT
MINE, AS
WELL!



THE TIME-DANCER
IS A FOOL TO ASSUME
THEY AREN'T ALREADY
AWARE...

THAT
VOICE
AGAIN!

YOU!
WHO ARE
YOU? WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?



TO TELL YOU THAT
YOUR BETROTHED
YET LIVES, FAERIE
CHILD.

REALLY?
HE'S
ALIVE!

YES, BUT YOU
HAVE LITTLE TIME
BEFORE MY BRETHREN
BREAK EVEN HIS NIGH-
INDOMITABLE
WILL.



THERE
SHE GOES
AGAIN... TALKIN'
TO NOBODY.

YA ASK
ME... P THAT
BIRD'S GONE
ALL TWEETY IN
THE HEAD!@

Y' KNOW
I LOVE YOU
T' PIECES,
PETE,
BABE --

-- BUT CAN
YOU DO US ALL A
FAVOR AND TRY NOT
TO BE SO OBTUSE
FOR, LIKE, ONE
SECOND?



MEGGAN'S
AN ELEMENTAL...
REMEMBER?

HER
HEIGHTENED
PERCEPTION OF
REALITY LETS HER
SEE THINGS THAT'RE
INVISIBLE TO THE
NAKED EYE!



HEIGHTENED
PERCEPTION
OF REALITY... P
LMA HAHA.

THINGS
INVISIBLE TO THE
NAKED EYE... P
RIGHT,
PRYDE.
AN' YOU
SAY I WATCH
THE "X-FILES"
TOO BLEEDIN'
MUCH?

YOUR SLURRY COMPANION
DOESN'T REALIZE
THAT YOU ALONE
CAN SEE ME,
GIRL.

THAT
IS BEST --
FOR THE TALE I,
XIANDU, MUST
TELL IS SOLELY
FOR YOUR
EARS...

"IT WAS A TIME OF
GREAT TURMOIL FOR
MY PEOPLE MANY
CENTURIES AGO...

"...AS THE MING
DYNASTY DIED A
BRUTAL, BLOODY
DEATH AT THE HANDS
OF THE BARBARIAN,
LI-TZU CH'ENG.

"YET DESPITE
THE CARNAGE...

"...MY FELLOW MONKS
AND I HELD PIOUSLY TO
THE BELIEF OUR PRAYERS
WOULD BRING AN END
TO THE BLOODSHED
DRENCHING THE MIDDLE
KINGDOM...

"... AND SOMEHOW
SUSTAIN THE DYNASTY
OF OUR PATRIARCHS
FOR YEARS TO COME.

"ALAS, OUR PRAYERS FELL ON
DEAF EARS ALMOST AS SWIFTLY
AS THE HOUSE OF MING FELL
TO LI-TZU'S SAVAGE ARMIES!

"AND SO, WITH MY FAITH SHATTERED, DID
I CONSCIOUSLY LEAD MY THREE FRIENDS,
A'YIN, BARAK AND RA'AL, DOWN THE
DARKEST ROAD THEY WOULD EVER TRAVEL.

"IN THE PITCH OF
NIGHT, BENEATH
THE LIGHT OF
THE MOON...

"...WE FOUR WERE INITIATED
INTO A COVENANT THAT
PROMISED TO REPEL
OUR OPPRESSORS --

"-- AND RESTORE THE
RIGHTFUL DOMINION TO
THE THRONE OF CHINA.



"THUS AN ANCIENT MYSTICAL
DISCIPLINE DID BECOME THE
WILLING SERVANTS OF THE
ANCIENT CRIMSON DAWN!"

"LITTLE DID I
REALIZE THE PRICE
SUCH SERVITUDE
WOULD EXACT
ON OUR SOULS."

"TEMPTED BY THE POWER
OF THE CRIMSON DAWN,
THEY DID TURN ON ME."

"NOW CORRUPT WITHIN,
SO DID THE CRIMSON
DAWN CORRUPT THEM
WITHOUT."

"AND IN THE INSTANT
THE FIRST DAGGER
WAS PLUNGED INTO MY
UNSUSPECTING HEART..."

"...MY FRIENDS
CEASED
TO EXIST --"

"AND THE
**DRAGONS OF THE
CRIMSON DAWN**
WERE BORN!"

"AND SO MY SPIRIT WAS SENTENCED
TO WANDER THE EARTH AWAITING
THEIR INEVITABLE ESCAPE FROM
THAT CRIMSON REALM."

NOW, CENTURIES LATER,
THEY HERALD THE BLOOD-
DRAINED TIDE SOON TO
COME.

SINCE YOUR
BELOVED BRIAN IS A
VESSEL OF GREAT POWER,
HE IS AS INSTRUMENTAL
IN THE LOOSING
OF THAT MYSTICAL
DELUGE, AS IS THIS
LAND --

-- FOR
THIS IS THE VERY
NEXUS OF POWER
WHERE WE ONCE SOUGHT
TO BEND REALITY TO OUR
PETTY, MORTAL
WHIMS.

AND IT
IS HERE THAT
THEY WILL ATTEMPT
TO DO SO
AGAIN...

...UNLESS
YOU, FAERIE
CHILD, CAN STOP
THEM!

MEP
BUT HOW?

LIEBCHEN, I AM SURE
WHATEVER YOU ARE
EXPERIENCING RIGHT NOW
IS MOST DIFFICULT
FOR YOU TO
HANDLE --

-- BUT WE
MUST HURRY
IF WE ARE EVER
GOING TO SAVE
BRIAN.

THAT'S
WHAT MY NEW-
FOUND FRIEND WAS
JUST TELLING ME,
KURT.

KURT...P
MEET XIANDU.
XIANDU...P KURT.
HE'S OUR TEAM
LEADER.

"XIANDU"?

WISDOM'S
RIGHT -- SHE
HAS GONE
"TWETTY!"

XIANDU...
CAN YOU --
WILL YOU --
HELP US?

PLEASE?

MEANWHILE, AS
EXCALIBUR
READIES THEIR
ASSAULT OUTSIDE...

... WITHIN THE
COMPOUND
PROPER...

... THE BATTLE
HAS ALREADY
BEGUN!

ZZZZZZZZAK

PAIN... SO...
SEVERE/ CAN'T...
STAND... MUCH...
MORE...

AAARGH!

SINCE ASSUMING HIS
PREDESTINED MANTLE
AS "CAPTAIN BRITAIN,
PROTECTOR OF THE
REALM"...

... BRIAN BRADDOCK HAS
SURVIVED A GREAT MANY
TRIALS... SURPASSED A
GREAT MANY TRIBULATIONS.

BUT OF ALL THE HARD-
SHIPS ENDURED DURING
HIS OBT-UNDESIRABLE
CAREER AS A "HERO"...

... NONE CAN COMPARE TO
THE EXCRUCIATING
PAIN BEING INFLICTED
UPON HIM BY HIS OTHER-
WORLDLY CAPTORS.

AND THOUGH HIS
BODY SCREAMS AT
HIM TO SURRENDER...

... HIS HEART
DEMANDS THAT
HE FIGHT ON!

I CAN...
I MUST --

WILL...
RESIST!

BETTER
TO CONSERVE
YOUR PRODIGIOUS
STRENGTH,
CAPTAIN.

NO!

ISN'T
IT AMAZING,
A'YIN? RESISTANCE
NOT ONLY HASTENS
HIS DEMISE --

-- BUT IT
ENSURES THE
DESTRUCTION OF
HIS "MODERN
WORLD!"

MISTRESS
RA'AL... MIGHTY
BARAK -- INDEED
HE IS TRULY
INCREDIBLE!

THAT'S
BLOODY... RIGHT,
PLONKER!

IT'LL
TAKE... LOTS
MORE... THEN
WHAT... YOU'VE GOT...
TO KEEP ME...
DOWN!

EVER THE WARRIOR,
PREPARED TO TAKE
A STAND FOR "KING
AND COUNTRY",
EH?

ADMIRABLE...



BUT
FITTLE AT
BEST!

RA'AL'S ENERGY
GUILLS...
PIERCING MY
VERY SOUL!



AND AS
BRIAN'S
SHRILL WAIL
PIERCES THE
NIGHT...



...THE DOUR A'YIN MAKES USE OF THE "MAGIC" OF TECHNOLOGY TO PRESS THEIR ADVANTAGE!

THAT SIX-ARMED TIME-WITCH, SPIRAL, DID NOT LIE ABOUT THESE DEVICES, MY FRIENDS.®

THEY ARE INDEED SIPHONING OFF BRADDOCK'S ENERGY BY THE SECOND!

WE SHALL SOON HAVE ALL THE POWER WE NEED TO SHATTER THE BARRIER BETWEEN THIS MORTAL COIL AND OUR MYSTICAL REALM!

® SPIRAL WAS IN LEAGUE WITH THE DRAGONS BEFORE JOINING THE A'YIN AS SHOWN LAST ISSUE... PAST

FINALLY!

TOO MANY CENTURIES HAVE WE SUFFERED TO ACHIEVE THIS MOMENT!

I GROW IMPATIENT THAT I MUST WAIT ANY LONGER!



REIN IN YOUR DESTRUCTIVE APPETITE, BARAK...

...FOR OUR SERVITUDE TO THE GRIMSON DAWN IS ABOUT TO BE REPAID A THOUSAND-FOLD WITHIN THE HOUR...EH?

I SENSE THAT SOMEONE HAS ENTERED THE COMPOUND... BUT THIS CANNOT BE --

-- IT IS XIANDU!



XIANDU? COME NOW, A'YIN --

-- ARE YOU SUDDENLY SO GIDDY THAT YOU IMAGINE THIS TO BE THE DAY OF OUR KARMIC RETRIBUTION?

WE LEFT THAT SUPERSTITIOUS FOOL FOR DEAD AGES AGO!

BUT IF IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL ANY BETTER... BARAK --?



AS YOU WISH, MISTRESS!

SOME LEVELS BELOW,
BARAK EMERGES FROM
THE SHADOWS TO FIND...

NOTHING...
HMP!

TIME IS
INDEED TAKING
ITS TOLL ON
SENILE
OLD A'YIN.

PERHAPS
WE SHOULD
ADD HIS ELDERLY
SOUL TO THE
PYRE...

NEED
A LIGHT,
BIG
GUYP

EH...?

YEEARCH!

FLASH FLASH

YOU
DARE
ASSAULT
THE MIGHTY
BARAK?!

YUP.

FLIK

INSOLENT
MORTAL --
I WILL KILL
YOU!

BAMF

CLANG

HERR
WISDOM MAY
BE RUDE, CRUDE
AND UTTERLY
UNCOUTH --



GO ON,
MY FRIENDS,
WOLFSBANE
AND I WILL HOLD
THIS BRUTE
AT BAY!

GROWL!

KRAK!

TOO
LATE CHILDREN!
THANKS TO THE TIME-
WITCH'S TECHNOLOGY,
YOUR FRIEND'S
POWER --

-- HIS
VERY LIFE'S
ESSENCE -- IS
FORFEIT!

AND
ONCE WE HAVE
FINISHED WITH HIS...

...SO
SHALL THE
CRIMSON
DAWN TAKE
YOURS!

MY
FRIENDS...
YOU WERE
RIGHT...
... SPIRAL
REALLY LIED
TO ME -- TO
ALL OF US!

OH, BRIAN...
NOOO!

MEGGAN --
Wahhh! DO
NOT... LISTEN...
TO HIM!

THE ONLY
LIE I HAVE
TOLD, GIRL --
WAS TO DECEIVE
THESE FOOLISH
'DRAGONS'!

THE TECHNOLOGY
I HAVE GIVEN THEM
IS USELESS WITHOUT
THE PROPER MAGICKS
TO TEMPER ITS
INFLUENCE!

AND THE ONLY
BEING CAPABLE
OF MANIPULATING
THOSE
MAGICKS --

-- IS
SPIRAL!



TREACHEROUS
WITCH!
WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
TO MEEEE?

• THE WILDBAYS ARE
THE MYSTICAL CROSS-
ROADS FROM WHICH
SPIRAL DRAGS HER
POWERS. RATT



BAME

YOU DRAGONS
CLAIM YOUR BOND TO THE
CRIMSON DAWN TO BE
ETERNAL --

-- BUT THAT IS
LITTLE MORE THAN A
HOLLOW THREAT, BARAK.
FOR I HAVE WALKED THE
WILDBAYS --

-- AND I
KNOW THAT
NOTHING LASTS
FOREVER!

IF YOU
ARE GOING TO
RESCUE BRADDOCK,
MUTANTS --

-- I
SUGGEST YOU
DO IT NOW BEFORE
I REGRET THIS
DECISION!

DANKE,
SPIRAL. PERHAPS THERE
IS MORE TO YOU THAN
WE SUSPECTED...

SCHNELL
PEOPLE! SPIRAL'S
BOUGHT US SOME
TIME --

-- NOW LET'S
USE IT TO OUR
ADVANTAGE!



EVERY-
THING'S GONNA
BE OKAY,
MEG.

BRIAN'S A
TROOPER. HE'LL
PULL THROUGH
JUST FINE...

ZOOM

FOR THOSE EVIL
DRAGONS' SAKE,
KITTY...



... HE'D
BETTER!

THOUGH IT'S ONLY BEEN
A MATTER OF HOURS SINCE
SHE WAS SEPARATED FROM
THE MAN SHE LOVES...

... FOR MEGGAN,
IT FEELS LIKE AN
ETERNITY.

AN ETERNITY SHE WANTS --
MORE THAN ANYTHING
ELSE -- TO END AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE...

... SO THAT HER NEW
LIFE WITH HIM MIGHT
FINALLY BEGIN.

BRIAN AND
I HAVE WAITED
SO LONG TO
CONSECRATE OUR
RELATIONSHIP...

... I REFUSE
TO LET THESE
PEOPLE STAND IN
THE WAY OF OUR
HAPPINESS!

EH... P WHAT'S
HAPPENING TO
THE ROOM?

CAPTAIN
BRITAIN'S
POWER IS BEING
USED TO ERODE
THE BARRIERS
BETWEEN THIS
REALITY...

...AND
THE CRIMSON
SHADOW REALM
TO WHICH
THE DRAGONS
WERE ONCE
BANISHED.

ALREADY,
THAT WORLD IS
SUPERIMPOSING
ITSELF UPON
THIS ONE.

I DID ALL
I COULD TO
STOP IT--

-- BUT I
FEAR IT IS
TOO LATE.

NO! I'M NOT
GIVING UP JUST
LIKE THAT!

LIKE
YOUR FAITH
ONCE MEANT THE
WORLD TO YOU,
XIANDU --

-- SO DOES
BRIAN MEAN
THE EARTH, THE
MOON, THE STARS...
THE WHOLE, WIDE
UNIVERSE
TO ME!

© FIRST PROPOSED DRAGONAL SUB-OS
AND READ IN EXACTLY THE
PASTORAL BOLLER

THAT
IS WHY I HAVE
SPOKEN TO YOU,
OF ALL YOUR
PEERS.

FOR AS
MUCH AS THE
MAGICKS WITHIN YOU
ARE NECESSARY
TO SAVE BRIAN
BRADDOCK --

-- SO
MUCH MORE IS
REQUIRED OF YOUR
LOVE FOR ONE
ANOTHER...

... TO
SAVE YOUR
WORLD!

ABOVE, THE BATTLE
RAGES ON...

THIS
WORLD'S DAY --
GAAH! -- IS
DONE, A'YIN!

CAN
YOU NOT FEEL
THE -- ARGH! --
RENAISSANCE
A'BORNING?

NO,
RA'AL --
SOMETHING'S
WRONG!

THE
ENERGY ISN'T
BEING DRAWN FROM
BRADDOCK TO THE
RIFT --

-- HE'S
DRAWING THE
ENERGY FROM
THE RIFT TO
HIMSELF!

THAT'S
RIGHT,
DEMON!

YOU SAID IT
YOURSELVES --
MY VERY BODY IS
AN OBJECT OF
POWER --

-- POWER
THAT IS MINE
ALONE TO
CONTROL!



MINE ALONE!

SHAZOW

HSSSS

BRIAN BRADDOCK HAS
ENDURED THE CERSELESS
TORTURE OF BATS
"PSYCHIC SURGERY"...

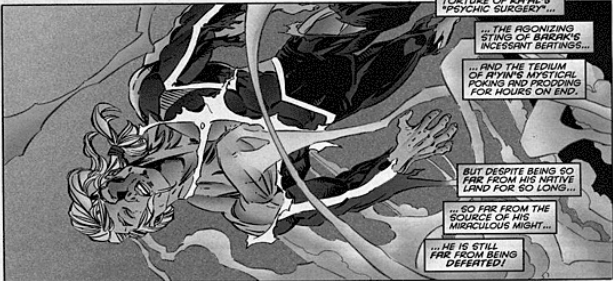
... THE AGONIZING
STING OF BARAK'S
INCESSANT BEATINGS...

... AND THE TEDIUM
OF RYIN'S MYSTICAL
POKING AND PRODDING
FOR HOURS ON END.

BUT DESPITE BEING SO
FAR FROM HIS NATIVE
LAND FOR SO LONG...

... SO FAR FROM THE
SOURCE OF HIS
MIRACULOUS MIGHT...

... HE IS STILL
FAR FROM BEING
DEFEATED!



FOR NO MATTER
HOW RELUCTANT
A HERO CAPTAIN
BRITAIN MAY BE --
HERO HE IS...

... AND A HERO
NEVER SAYS
"DIE"!

RIGHT,
NOW, WHICH
ONE O'YOU
PRATS... WANTS TO
GO... ANOTHER
ROUND?



BAM!

EASY,
BRIAN. TIME TO
LET THE "CAVALRY"
GIVE THESE HELL-
SPAWN A
GO!

NIGHT-
CRAWLER...?
EXCLUBUR!



NO!
THE BRITON
IS OURS!

SLOOORCH



WATCH IT, KURT --
THAT CORROSIVE
BILE CAN FRY YOUR
FLESH RIGHT OFF
THE BONE!

YIKES!



NOW
WHAT, MEIN
FREUND?

NOW...
WE GIVE THEM
WHAT THEY
WANT.

WAS? ARE
YOU INSANE,
MANT?



NO.
HE IS MERELY
ACCEPTING HIS
DESTINY AS THE
USHER OF A
BOLD NEW
ERA!

AYIN...
DISPOSE OF THE
OTHERS!

ACK

BY
YOUR COMMAND,
MISTRESS.

BETTER HOLD
MY BREATH WHILE
I'M INTRIGABLE, OR
ELSE I'LL GAG ON
THAT CLOUD,
TOO!

NOW, I'VE
GOTTA REMEMBER
EVERYTHING WOLVERINE
TAUGHT ME ABOUT
FIGHTING --

-- AND
TAKE THESE
GUYS DOWN
HARD AND
FAST!

KRAK

© KITTY LEARNED THE ART OF NONSTRI
FROM HER FELLOW X-MAN IN THE
"DUSTY OFF THE ROTHWALD" PART



NICE MOVES,
SHADOWCAT!

BUT I'D
"PHASE" UNDER
SOME COVER
IF I WERE
YOU --

-- COS
THINGS ARE
ABOUT TO
REALLY HEAT
UP!

BUT AS BRIAN REACHES
OUT TO DRAW THE WILD,
CORUSCATING ENERGY
BACK INTO HIMSELF...

BRIAN

ENERGY --
FEEDING BACK
ON ME --

YEEEAARGH!



CAN'T
REABSORB
IT... FAST
ENOUGH! NEED...
HELP.



BRIAN!

MEG...
IS THAT... REALLY
YOU?



OF
COURSE IT
IS, YOU BIG
SILLY!

NEED
YOU... TO DRAIN
THE ENERGY... FROM
THE PORTAL... AND RE-
DIRECT IT INTO ME...
TO SEAL THE
GFT.

THEN I CAN
SAFELY RELEASE
THE ENERGY.



BUT THAT
MIGHT KILL
YOU!

OH,
BRIAN... NO.
I -- I --



SHH,
SWEETHEART.

I LOVE
YOU, TOO...

Matt Idelson,

I have been reading the X-Men since 1980 when the artistic team was Chris Claremont and John Byrne, and for the record, I think they have just been upstaged.

EXCALIBUR #107 is one of the best X-books I have ever read. The art and the writing knocked me out. I haven't reread and studied a copy like this in years.

Salvador Larroca's art shows a very defined development and maturity. I'd like to pinpoint a few things that I thought were exceptional: on page three, the scene of the car speeding into London. I loved the city in the background. The coloring was dead on! I loved the contrast in pages four and five of the machinery with the gang hanging all over the wires and parts and then the smooth and simple floor beneath them.

I loved the flashback scenes. We longtime readers know how accurate these were, even down to the outfits worn by Kitty! Loved seeing the New Mutants, especially Daniil (Hint, hint!) The scenes of Brian and Meggan in London were great. It's nice to see a book that doesn't give the readers a lot of full page frames. Sometimes it works really well and sometimes I just feel like I'm getting ripped off. The page of Brian by the lion's statue is an example of where it works well. With the concrete reaching the end of the page, the reader is invited into the environment.

And even though Moira sliding across the room in her chair was a gem, one of my favorites was the picture of Brian and Spiral looking up to the rift in the sky as the Dragons are beginning to charge into London. It was great! The coloring and everything just worked very well to create a sense of distance. The book was very well laid out and composed and I cannot stress enough how grateful I am for the lack of full page frames.

The writing of Ben Raab deserves equal praise. Not only did he master the diversity of the group and all of their wonderful accents, but he really moved the story along and summed up the character of each hero and their

powers. A few things that really gave me new understanding of his writing were Kurt's self-imposed obligation to Xavier, Meggan's powers and their effect on her, and Kitty and Pete's rapport. Nice job, guys!

I also really enjoyed Meggan's referral to her conversation with Betsy because, as some of us heading into our seventeenth year of following the X-Men know, when some of them run into each other in a crossover or some other story, they don't really acknowledge their past experiences or relationships and I think, "Come on, Rahne! You haven't seen Dani since she stayed in Asgard! Shouldn't you be happier to see her?" So that's why I like characters who communicate even if they aren't in the same book anymore.

Is that enough? Have I gushed enough? This was just a very satisfying book. I can't compliment your efforts enough, but I tried! Thank you!

David Depew
Des Moines, IA

Enough gushing? Never! But seriously, we really appreciate the kind words, David! We're trying to make EXCALIBUR the best it can be, and if everyone else enjoys it as much as you, then we must be on the right track. The creative team is working hard to put together a great book every month. Even though EXCALIBUR is about a team, the individual characters are what really make the book interesting, so Ben and Salvador are doing their best to give each character a distinctive personality and look. The better the characters work as individuals, the better they'll mesh as a team! So keep reading, 'cause it's only going to get better!

Dear *Swordstrokes*,

This is a letter to say that, after only the first issue, I am already enjoying EXCALIBUR's new direction. Finally, someone has shown a little of Captain Britain and Meggan's relationship. I am a big Pryde and Wisdom fan, but Braddock and Meggan's relationship is much more interesting to me.

Also, I would enjoy seeing

Colossus and Wolfsbane shown a little more. They are both great characters and they aren't being used enough. Do something with Rahne's mutate background, too.

Once Strong Guy wakes, take him to Muir Island and have him visit his old buddy, Rahne. I have missed him more than any other character. I doubt he'll rejoin X-Factor (but I hope he will). If at all possible, have him join the team. He would fit in great over here. If not, just have a guest appearance.

I have a couple of questions:

1) Does Sinister have the Legacy Virus? He was there when it was first discovered, and that would explain why he is trying to cure it.

2) What limited series are coming up in the near future?

3) What does EXCALIBUR have planned?

Thanks!

Chad Anderson
1623.shsstu@sd60.k12.id.us

Brian and Meggan's relationship is one of the longest and most storied in the Marvel Universe. While theirs will be a long-distance love for the time being (hope you don't hate us!), it will survive. And if you're concerned about everyone's favorite organic steel gotham not getting enough spotlight time, check out the answer to your second question below:

1) So far as we know, Sinister is virus-free. Of course, the Legacy Virus is quite the rage these days. Moira's been slaving away looking for a cure, Sinister wants it, and if X-MEN #63 was any example, the plot continues to thicken.

2) We've got the awesome CRIMSON DAWN four-issue limited series starting in June, as well as a COLOSSUS one-shot due out this summer. Both of them are going to be spectacular, we promise!

3) Oh, a little of this, a little of that. Honestly, there's so much that's going to happen to our merry band of mutants in the months to come that if we answered this question here, we wouldn't have any room for letters! So, uh, guess you'll just have to keep reading! A couple of clues, though: Wundagore, Belasco, and Doctor Bong. (Just kidding about that last one!)

Dear *Swordstrokes*,
You guys are doing great!

EDITOR

ASSISTANT

CHIEF

MATT
IDELSON

PAUL
TUTANE

BOB
HARRAS

I love EXCALIBUR. I was just curious, EXCALIBUR is the international X-Men, right? But Shadowcat and Meggan seem to be American, and Gambit is kinda French; shouldn't he be in EXCALIBUR? Anyway, I just wanna talk about each of the stars of EXCALIBUR.

Nightcrawler: my personal favorite. I love everything new about him! The earring, the new haircut and the swords (but I liked the old outfit better myself, or even the outfit he had in #107 when he teleported down to help Wisdom up; that was also a pretty cool suit). Also, in issue #94 of EXCALIBUR, they were in future past, and Nightcrawler was with Meggan. Please have Meggan break up with Brian and take Nightcrawler.

Captain Britain: In issue #107, he just spazzed out. Is he gonna be quitting? That hower-car thing he made was pretty cool; are they keeping it? They should. I'm kinda confused what his powers are. Mind filling me in?

Meggan: I really have nothing to say about her.

Pete Wisdom: Have him join the team. They need a new person.

Shadowcat: She's pretty cool. I just noticed that she's the only one who really ages.

Wolfsbane: She's been kinda left out. Put her in some upcoming issues.

Colossus: Awesome mutant. He seems to get bigger each time I see him.

Douglcock: I loved that little Douglcock saga. He is pretty cool, but left out a lot.

Lockheed: Lockheed is long gone and forgotten; why? He was cool! Please put him in more issues.

That just about wraps it up. Thanx for reading this, and more thanx if you print it. Until Colossus gives everyone a big bear hug, Make Mine Marvel. Ciao!

Danni Shelton
Tyngsboro, MA

Actually, Danni, we like to think EXCALIBUR's "international status" means that they travel around the world more than the other X-Teams. Granted, they've been based on Muir Island for quite some time now, but they will be making their rounds to other areas of Europe as well as Asia more and more in the months to come. But don't get the wrong impression; EXCALIBUR will definitely not consider their upcoming travels to be a family vacation....

To answer your question, Captain Britain (until this issue, anyway) had super-strength, invulnerability (due to a personal force field), and the ability to fly. And by the way, Wisdom already is a part of the team, but he just doesn't go in for the "spandex" thing. Fear not, everyone will get their turn in the spotlight soon enough, so keep on reading! In fact, Rahne will be...but that would be telling! As for Lockheed, we haven't shown him for a reason....

Dear *Swordstrokes*,

Issue #107 was great. It is about time that there was a team besides the X-Men with a Cerebro. I also liked how

Kurt, Peter, Kitty, & Rahne told Pete about how they became X-Men or the like.

O.K. Q&A time. I give you guys the Q's & you give me the A's.

1) What is going on with Pete & Kitty? Since they started "dating," all they have really done is hang around Muir. Do something with them.

2) Meggan & Brian: more needs to be done with them. When are they going to get married anyway?

3) How can Spiral have the same mark as Betsy? The way I understood it was that the mark came because of what Warren did to get the Crimson Dawn.

4) Amanda. She is almost never in these pages anymore. Is she coming back?

Well, that is it. So until Brian leaves Meggan for Spiral, Make Mine Marvel!

Alia Federow
Chicago, IL

Well, Alia, EXCALIBUR may have its very own Cerebro unit, but Kurt seems to be having a little trouble getting it to work. He's a pretty persistent guy, though, so he's sure to have it up and running (just as soon as he gets a break from fighting bad guys!). And thanks for the great Q's! Now, here are your A's:

1) Pete and Kitty do go out, but they've been kind of busy lately, what with all that's been going on with EXCALIBUR. We'll make sure they get to spend some quality time together in the future, though. That is, if fate allows them to hang....

2) So, were the events of the last few issues enough action for Brian and Meg? Doesn't look like the wedding will happen anytime soon, however, but it definitely *hasn't* been called off!

3) Psylocke bears the mark of the Crimson Dawn to remind her of the debt she owes for it saving her life in UNCANNY X-MEN #329-330. Now Spiral is also an indentured servant of the Crimson Dawn, but as you saw this issue, that doesn't mean that the six-armed, double-crossing time-dancer will necessarily obey the Dragons' every command.

4) Hmmm...Amanda really *hasn't* been in these pages for a while now, has she? She'll be back, though, and when she returns, you'll find out why she's been acting so strange lately. Stay tuned!

Dear *Swordstrokes*,

Wow! I knew Larroca's pencils would fit perfectly here. His style is clear, defined, and downright spectacular! I look forward to more renditions of our merry mutants. And I can't forget about Koblish either. His inking is brilliant!

I loved seeing Peter, Kitty, Rahne, and Kurt remember their pasts, and how they led them to join in Xavier's dream. Just goes to show that Raab knows his history with these mutants and he's perfect as new writer! By knowing the past, one can propel them to unknown, exciting futures.

Reading Paul Darby's letter and

seeing Rahne among her New Mutants (that flashback) makes me realize the change in Rahne's appearance. How come she doesn't revert to her more human state? Why is her skin a darker hue and her hair longer? She doesn't care about her other appearance with short fuzzy red hair and whiter skin?

Kitty telepath to run Cerebro. Not true. Didn't Magneto (pre-Joseph) use Cerebro quite a bit when he took over Xavier's spot as headmaster years ago? And if they do need a psi, now is the time to bring back Karma. I know she'll be featured in the upcoming BEAST limited series, but she'd be perfect with this team!

And why does Spiral have the mark of the Crimson Dawn on her? She seems to have a special affinity for pestering the Braddock twins. Could there be a closer relationship? Hopefully we'll see Psylocke (as well as Angel) appear soon since this Crimson Dawn saga seems to be centered around her.

Tom Malinowski
Bartlett, IL

We're glad you're so excited about the new turn EXCALIBUR is taking. Tom! We hope you liked issue #s 108-110 just as much, and if you did, you're really gonna love what we've got in store for the future! As for Rahne and her appearance, it's taken her awhile to get used to having full use of her powers again. Rest assured, she'll be using her powers to their fullest extent in issues to come.

And as for the Cerebro problem, Cerebro can be used by anyone who has the know-how to take advantage of its knack for enhancing even a non-psi's mental abilities. And who would have better training in that regard than a former student of Charles Xavier?

Since you're wondering about Psylocke and Angel's current situation, check out the CRIMSON DAWN limited series this summer starring—you guessed it—Psylocke and Angel, brought to you by EXCALIBUR's own Ben Raab and Salvador Larroca!

NEXT MONTH

THE RETURN OF
AN OLD FACE,
A DEAD FACE,
AND THE
WINNERS
OF OUR
"MYSTERY
GUEST-STAR"
CONTEST!!!

WHEN FIRST THEY
MET, MEGGAN WAS
A FRIGHTENED, WAIF
LIVING ON THE STREETS
OF LONDON...

...AND BRIAN BRADDOCK
WAS FAST BECOMING THE
SYMBOL OF A NATION'S
HOPE -- AN EQUALLY
FRIGHTENING PROSPECT.

I'VE
RECYCLED...
AS MUCH
ENERGY...
AS I CAN,
BRIAN!

NEITHER
OF... US CAN
SURVIVE... MUCH
MORE!

READY,
MY LOVE?

THEN
THIS IS IT,
MEGGAN --

LET
IT GO!

TAKING SOLACE IN
ONE ANOTHER'S
COMPANY, THEIR
RELATIONSHIP SOON
GREW FROM TRIED
AND TRUE FRIEND-
SHIP TO DEEP
IMPRESSIONED LOVE.

EACH BECOMING
A ROCK UPON
WHICH THE OTHER
COULD IMPLICITLY
DEPEND...

...TILL DEATH
DO THEY PART.

© BACK IN THE UK'S NIGHTS
WHEEL CLUB MARVEL 14
17 PAT

MEIN
GOTT.

IT'S --
IT'S OVER?
J--JUST LIKE
T--THAT?

FOOLISH
MORTAL! THIS
IS FAR FROM
OVER!

THE
CRIMSON DAWN
SHALL SOON RISE AND
BATHE THIS WORLD
IN ITS SANGUINE
FURY!®

WHETHER
IT BE THE TURN
OF THIS MILLENIUM
OR THE TURN OF THE
NEXT, YOU WILL
NOT AVERT ITS
DOOM.



© AS YOU SHALL SEE IN THE UPCOMING
PERIODS: B. ARCHANGEL & C. DODD
DRAFT LIMITED SERIESKID ... MATT

AND AS CERTAIN AS
YOU CAN BE OF THAT
INESCAPABLE TRUTH,
BE CERTAIN OF
THIS...



...WE
DRAGONS SHALL
RETURN!



MAN, GOOD
THING THEY'RE
BUGGIN' OUT! I
DOUBT WE COUL'D
LASTED MUCH
LONGER!



B-BRIAN...
SAY SOMETHING TO
ME, MY LOVE...

P-P-
P-PLEASE...

OH,
DARLING...

~SNIFF~

... IT'S NOT
SUPPOSED TO
HAPPEN LIKE
THIS...

... WE WERE
SUPPOSED TO
BE MARRIED...



WHO...
SAID... WE...
WOULDN'T



AND AS THESE STAR-
CROSSED LOVERS ARE
REUNITED AT LAST...

... THE JOURNEY OF ONE
MAN'S RESTLESS SOUL
COMES TO A CLOSE.

DRAWN, THE NEXT MORNING...

...AND SEVERAL RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS LATER...

NOTHING, FOLKS.
NO SIGN OF EITHER SPIRAL OR A SINGLE ONE OF THE DRAGONS.
ONE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THEY ALL RETURNED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE DIMENSIONS.

GOOD. I JUST RATTED THIS PLACE OUT BY BOUNCING A SIGNAL TO AN ORBITING CHINESE SATELLITE --

-- AND THE LAST THING THE OL' RED SHIRT'S NEED IS TO HAVE A RUN-IN WITH THAT LOT!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "YOU" BOUNCED THE SIGNAL, YA SMARMY GIT?

Oh, BLOODY HECK.

HAS ANYONE SEEN MEGGAN AND BRIAN, BY THE WAY?

AYE -- THEY'VE BEEN GONE FOR SOME TIME.

NOT SURE ABOUT MEGGAN, BUT I SAW BRIAN SITTING ON THE HILL OVERLOOKING THE VALLEY.

HE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE HE WANTED TO BE DISTURBED.

"AFTER HAVING BEEN TORTURED ALMOST TO DEATH, I WOULD IMAGINE HE HAS A LOT ON HIS MIND."

ENOUGH ROOM FOR TWO UP HERE, HON?

Hmmm... WHAT?

Oh, MEG -- OF COURSE.

PLEASE. DO SIT...

I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE, LUV.

WE NEED TO TALK.

IT'S ABOUT US -- ABOUT BEING MARRIED -- ISN'T IT?

THAT, YES -- AND A GREAT MANY OTHER THINGS THAT ARE GOING THROUGH MY HEAD RIGHT NOW.

IT'S SO STRANGE, LUV. I THOUGHT I COULD HANDLE ANYTHING. BUT THE CRIMSON DAWN WAS TOO POWERFUL FOR ME...

NOW MY POWERS ARE GONE... AND CAPTAIN BRITAIN'S NO MORE --

